clearances, for implementing that part of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP) that has been specifically entrusted to the Ministry of SSI for those programmes/recommendations of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) which are envisaged to be directly executed by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and agencies/bodies under its administrative control, DIPP is in the process of finalizing the financial outlays and initiating the process of obtaining requisite clearances for the amounts so determined.

(c) The NMCP when implemented is expected to improve competitiveness of enterprises in the manufacturing sector which would in turn enhance opportunities for gainful employment, including in the backward regions of the country also.

Border Trade with China through Nathula

173. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether border trade with China through Nathula Pass in Sikkim started in July, 2006;

(b) if so, whether goods worth US $3 billion would be exported annually to China using this route;

(c) whether Government have commisioned RITES Ltd. to conduct a feasibility study for the development of permanent infrastructure at Nathula; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by both the countries to achieve the new proposed target of $ 100 billion by 2015?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Border trade is overland trade and exchange of commodities by the residents along the border. As per the agreed list of commodities for border trade between India and China, 29 items can be exported from India to China and 15 items can be imported into India from China.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir, M/s. RITES Ltd. has been commissioned to do a study on long term infrastructure development of the border trade mart at

Sherathang. The report of the study is likely to be submitted by end of August, 2006.

Industrial growth

†174. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a growth in the rate of development of several industries during 2005-06 in comparison to 2004-05, while there has been a decline in the rate of development of other industries;

(b) if so, the names of industries whose rate of growth increased and those whose rate of growth decreased during that period; and

(c) the reasons for decline in the rate of growth of those industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per Index of Industrial Production (IIP) released by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the industries whose rate of growth during 2005-06 was higher than the previous year are: Food Products; Beverage, tobacco and tobacco products, cotton textile; wood and wood products; rubber and wood, plastic, petroleum and coal products; non-metallic minerals; basic metals and alloy industries; transport equipment and parts and other manufacturing industries.

The industries whose rate of growth has decreased during the above period are mining and quarrying; wool, silk and man made fibre textiles; jute and other vegetable fibre textiles; textile products; paper and paper products; basic chemical and chemical products; leather and fur products; metal products and parts, and machinery and equipment.

In the mining sector, crude pertoleum has registered lower growth due to environmental constraints in Eastern region and loss of production from Bombay High due to a fire accident. The performance of the paper industry

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.